

For information of all BUMC members, printed below are the current Bylaws for our church cemetery. The Committee is processing recently requested assignments of spaces/plots. Should you have specific questions, please contact Loretta Price (892-2849), Chair-Cemetery Property Committee, or leave a message by calling the Church Office at 892-2842.

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**BYLAWS  
BEULAH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY  
GILBERT, SOUTH CAROLINA  
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2006**

**ARTICLE I**

The name of the cemetery shall be Beulah United Methodist Cemetery. It is the property of Beulah United Methodist Church of Gilbert, South Carolina, and is a ministry for her members. As such, its management shall be under the direction of the duly authorized Administrative Body of Beulah United Methodist Church.

The cemetery grounds shall be administered by the Cemetery Property Committee of the Church whose duties are herein described in Article III. The Committee is responsible to and shall report annually on the Cemetery to the Church Board of Trustees before the January meeting of the duly authorized Administrative Body.

**ARTICLE II**

**GRAVE SPACES AND THEIR RESTRICTIONS**

**A. Burial Privileges**

1. Grave spaces shall be assigned free to active, professing members of Beulah United Methodist Church.
2. Active membership is reflected in participation in the life of the church in the fulfillment of membership vows to support the church with prayers, presence, gifts and service. Any questions about active membership will be reviewed and resolved by the members of the Cemetery Property Committee in consultation with the Pastor.
3. Challenged or health-impaired baptized/professing member needs will be considered on an individual basis.
4. No burial fee is required of active members.
5. A burial fee of \$500.00 is required of non-active members.
6. An active, professing or baptized member of the church may request burial of a non-member. However, the burial of any non-member will be considered on an individual basis. A burial fee of \$1,000.00 for each burial site will be required for non-members.

**B. Plot Assignment and Enhancement**

1. Plots may be assigned to active, professing members of Beulah United Methodist through the Chair of the Cemetery Property Committee.
2. A grave space assignment does not confer the right to sell, transfer, or assign such plot(s). A grave space is construed to mean only a burial right. A plot is equal to two grave spaces.
3. More than two plots per family must be approved by the Cemetery Committee. Families currently assigned more than two plots are requested to justify their need to the Cemetery Committee.
4. No fences, wood or metal, or any other permanent material, such as ornaments, statues or other defacing objects, shall be permitted in the cemetery. Coping is permitted provided it is placed within the grave space. Coping does not ensure permanent use of the space. Grave markers are required with names thereon within a year of burial and must be placed within the dimensions of the grave space. The Cemetery Property Committee should be contacted before work is done on any gravesite.
5. Grave owners may, according to their desire, plant flowers or shrubbery on their grave space; however, said flowers or shrubbery shall not be allowed to exceed 24 inches in height. If such plantings become detrimental to adjacent squares, graves, walks, or drives, the Committee shall have the right to remove same or any part thereof. The Committee has the right to remove old flowers from graves at least twice a year.
6. All grave corner markers are to be visible.

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**C. Reassignment of Plots**

1. Members desiring to release grave spaces may do so by contacting the Cemetery Property Committee. Persons moving membership from Beulah will automatically relinquish grave spaces if all vacant; otherwise each situation will be dealt with individually. The Committee shall have the superior right to reassign the grave spaces that are released either by consent or transfer of church membership. Cemetery revisions shall be made annually for possible vacant spaces and persons who have moved their membership may be notified by mail annually regarding such plot(s).

2. In the event of the death of a plot-holder and his/her family, any unused plot(s) shall revert to the church. When these plots are reassigned, the new assignees, with the permission of the Cemetery Property Committee, may enhance their plots appropriately.

**D. Burial Requirements**

1. No grave is to be dug before consulting a member of the Cemetery Property Committee. All earth left after filling the grave shall be moved to a designated place within five (5) days by person authorized to dig the grave. All Funeral Home Directors within the general area shall be informed of this regulation in writing and a copy kept for the Cemetery Property Committee files.

2. Outer burial box is required (cement box or vault).

E. The Cemetery Property Committee reserves the right to waive restrictions/regulations in situations where doing so will serve the best interest of the member/family and the church.

F. Any person refusing to comply with these or other such regulations as may be adopted from time to time by the Administrative Body of the Church and the Cemetery Property Committee shall be denied the privileges of the Cemetery.

**ARTICLE III  
CEMETERY PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

There shall be a Cemetery Property Committee, consisting of six members elected by the Charge Conference for a term of three years. Their tenure shall be so arranged that one class expires annually. The Cemetery Trustees may elect a Chair after election by the Charge Conference.

The duties of the Cemetery Property Committee shall be:

1. To see that the Cemetery is kept in good order at all times.
2. To see that a marker is placed at every grave with identification on same from this day forth.
3. To see that markers and coping are kept within the grave boundaries.
4. To receive all applications for graves and allot same upon full compliance with the Bylaws.
5. To see that all rules relative to the Cemetery and its use are observed, and it shall be their duty, together with the Administrative Body of the Church, to enforce the same.
6. To notify all Funeral Home Directors in the area of the regulations set forth in these Bylaws.
7. To keep up-to-date any new additions or changes of plot assignments.
8. To see that a plat is available for all members to view for the personal convenience of them, the Pastor and the Cemetery Property Committee.
9. To keep a record book where assignments of grave spaces shall be recorded as well as deaths, using first name, middle initial and last name and nickname, if any. A similar record shall be kept for the Administrative Body of the Church and its records. These records shall be kept up-to-date by the Chairperson of the Cemetery Property Committee.

**ARTICLE IV**

Any questions arising which are not specifically covered by these Bylaws shall be settled by the duly authorized Administrative Body of the Church upon recommendation from the Cemetery Property Committee.

**ARTICLE V**

Amendments may be made to these Bylaws by a recommendation from the Cemetery Property Committee to the Administrative Body of Beulah UMC.

In the May 2016 newsletter....